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ABSTRACT

This telephone survey to determine the ethnic composition of the East Detroit school district was done by a team of teachers as part of a teacher workshop training program. As part of the same teacher workshop, another team of teachers wrote an historical sketch of East Detroit, describing its population growth, economic development, and educational services. (See document SO 012 513). These complementary studies present one approach for developing a composite picture of a school/community. This publication describes the methodology used in the survey, outlines the data received by school, summarizes the data, and lists questions which were raised by the survey. The initial step in the survey was an endorsement and some assistance from the Superintendent of Schools. He made available to the teacher team school census data and supported a request to involve high school students working in the district's 12 elementary schools. A press release informing the public that this survey was being conducted was sent to city newspapers. Notice of the survey was also mailed to every home in the district. Using the school census data sheets, a five percent telephone sample was prepared for each elementary school area. The telephone survey was conducted by cooperating high school students. Results indicated that German Americans represent the largest ethnic percentage of East Detroit School District residents. The next two largest groups were Polish Americans and Italian Americans. (Author/RM)

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ETHNIC SURVEY

of

East Detroit School District Residents

(Study completed for partial fulfillment of course requirements in Field Studies: Ethnic Studies Workshop.)

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This study was done by a team of teachers as part of Teacher Workshop training program offered at the East Detroit Resource Center established by the South East Michigan Regional Ethnic Heritage Studies Center through a Title IX ESEA grant. As part of the same Teacher Workshop another team of teachers did an historical sketch of East Detroit, describing its population growths, economic development and its educational services. These complementary studies present one approach for developing a composite picture of a school/community. This material is provided to school administrators, teachers and curriculum specialists in a "working stage" form. Any reactions by educators who have read and/or used this material would be appreciated. Please send to:

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Additional copies may be obtained at the above address.

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Appendix

Survey Sheet

Co-op Instruction Sheet

Work Sheets 1, 2, 3

Letter to Elementary Principals

Press Releases

NOTE: Some copies of the report will not include all of the listings under Appendix.

Description and Methodology

On October 2, 1974, seventeen East Detroit Public School Staff members began a cooperative in-service program with Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and the Southeastern Ethnic Heritage Studies Center. The goal of the group was to become knowledgeable about the changing East Detroit culture and to determine methods and procedures which would provide a more meaningful learning atmosphere for all students in the school district.

After total group preliminary sessions giving relative background in ethnicity, participants chose projects pertinent to the class objective. This particular study involved a random telephone survey to determine generally the ethnic composition of the school district of the City of East Detroit in February, 1975, and was executed by a four-member team. Having determined its plan, the team outlined specifically those processes necessary to complete such an undertaking and devised a survey. (See Appendix.)

The initial step was an endorsement and some assistance from Michael O. Emlaw, Superintendent of East Detroit Public Schools. Upon meeting with Mr. Emlaw, he made available to the team May, 1974, school census data, supported a request to involve high school Co-op students working in the district's twelve elementary schools, and agreed to solicit the cooperation of all elementary principals to whom these girls were assigned.

A letter of explanation was drafted and forwarded to all elementary principals. Each team member assumed responsibility for

three elementary buildings and made follow-up phone calls to their assigned building principals to assure full understanding of the query.

A press release informing the public that this survey was being conducted appeared in the Detroit News and the East Detroit Journal. The latter is mailed to every dwelling in the above school district. (See Appendix.)

Using the school census data sheets, a five percent telephone sample was prepared for each elementary school area. No names were identified, and the questionnaire called for answering three questions. (See Appendix.)

Co-op girls connected with the telephoning were briefed by team members. Each was furnished with an instruction sheet. (See Appendix.) Daily contact was made with all girls and necessary aid was given where needed.

Following completion of all calls, the team compiled its results as is indicated in the charts and forms included in this report.

TABULATION I

(RAW DATA)

Frequency Of Response To The Ethnic Identity Question

1.	German 164	21.	Sicilian 3
2.	Polish 114	22.	Armenian 2
3.	Italian. 101	23.	Danish 2
4.	Irish. 76	24.	Finlander. 2
5.	English. 56	25.	Mexican. 2
6.	French 36	26.	Rumanian 2
7.	American 32	27.	Syrian 2
8.	Scotch 18	28.	Appalachian. 1
9.	Belgian. 12	29.	Czechoslovakian. . .1
10.	Greek. 11	30.	Far East Indian. . .1
11.	Canadian 9	31.	Jordanian. 1
12.	Ukranian 9	32.	Latvian. 1
13.	American Indian. . . 7	33.	Norwegian. 1
14.	Hungarian. 7	34.	Phillippino. 1
15.	Russian. 6	35.	Puerto Rican 1
16.	Slovak 6	36.	Scandinavian 1
17.	Swiss. 5	37.	Serbian. 1
18.	Dutch. 4	38.	Welsh. 1
19.	Lebanese 4	39.	Yugoslavian. 1
20.	Lithuanian 3		

TOTAL 707

TABULATION II

(Each / Represents One Percent)

TOP FIVE PREDOMINATE ETHNIC GROUPS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL	PERCENT	
A - Bellview		
German	32	//////////////////////////////////
Polish	18	//////////////////
English	11	///////////
Irish	9	/////////
Italian	9	/////////
Other	21	////////////////////
B - Crescentwood		
German	30	//////////////////////////////
Polish	16	/////////////////
Italian	14	//////////////
Irish	9	/////////
Scotch	7	///////
Other	24	//////////////////////////
C - Deerfield		
German	32	//////////////////////////////////
English	13	/////////////
Irish	13	/////////////
Italian	10	//////////
Ukranian	10	//////////
Other	22	//////////////////////

TOP FIVE PREDOMINATE ETHNIC GROUPS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Continued)

SCHOOL	PERCENT	
D - Forest Park		
German	28	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Italian	24	++++++++++++++++++++++++
American	14	++++++++++++++
Polish	11	++++++++++++
Irish	7	+++++++
Other	16	++++++++++++++++
E - Kantner		
Polish	21	++++++++++++++++++++
German	19	++++++++++++++++++
Italian	18	++++++++++++++++++
English	7	+++++++
French	6	++++++
Other	29	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
F - Kellwood		
German	24	++++++++++++++++++++++++
Polish	24	++++++++++++++++++++++++
Italian	20	++++++++++++++++++++
American	10	++++++++++
Irish	7	+++++++
Lebanese	7	+++++++
Other	8	++++++++

TOP FIVE PREDOMINATE ETHNIC GROUPS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Continued)

SCHOOL	PERCENT	
G - Kern		
German	21	++++++++++++++++++++
Italian	14	++++++++++++++
English	12	++++++++++++
Polish	12	++++++++++++
French	9	+++++++++
Other	32	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
H - Pleasantview		
Italian	22	++++++++++++++++++++++
Polish	19	+++++++++++++++++++
German	18	++++++++++++++++++
English	7	+++++++
Irish	7	+++++++
Other	7	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++
I - Roosevelt		
German	17	++++++++++++++++
Polish	17	++++++++++++++++
American	13	+++++++++++++
Irish	11	++++++++++
Italian	9	+++++++++
Other	33	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

TOP FIVE PREDOMINATE ETHNIC GROUPS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Continued)

SCHOOL	PERCENT	
J - Roxana Park		
Polish	22	++++++++++++++++++++++
German	19	++++++++++++++++++
Irish	16	++++++++++++++++
English	13	++++++++++++
Italian	9	+++++++++
Other	21	++++++++++++++++++++
K - Warrendale		
Irish	23	++++++++++++++++++++++
German	20	++++++++++++++++++++
Polish	11	++++++++++
French	9	+++++++++
English	9	+++++++++
Other	28	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
L - Woodland		
German	29	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Irish	21	++++++++++++++++++++
Polish	17	++++++++++++++++
Italian	8	++++++++
French	6	++++++
Other	19	++++++++++++++++++

TOP FIVE PREDOMINATE ETHNIC GROUPS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

(Continued)

SCHOOL	PERCENT	
M - Grant Junior High		
German	20	++++++++++++++++++++
Polish	20	++++++++++++++++++++
Italian	17	+++++++++++++++++
Irish	10	++++++++++
English	7	+++++++
Other	26	++++++++++++++++++++++++++
N - Kelly Junior High		
German	27	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Italian	17	+++++++++++++++++
Polish	17	+++++++++++++++++
Irish	8	++++++++
English	7	+++++++
Other	24	++++++++++++++++++++++++
O - Oakwood Junior High		
German	24	++++++++++++++++++++++++
Irish	13	+++++++++++++
Polish	12	++++++++++++
English	9	+++++++++
Italian	9	+++++++++
Other	33	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
P - East Detroit High		
German	23	+++++++++++++++++++++++
Polish	16	++++++++++++++++
Italian	14	++++++++++++++
Irish	11	++++++++++
English	8	++++++++
Other	28	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

TABULATION III

(All Numbers Represent Percents)

A - Bellview

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	11	6	33	33	17
Polish	0	10	0	50	30	10
English	0	33	0	17	33	17
Italian	0	20	0	20	60	0
Irish	0	20	0	20	60	0
Other	0	25	8	8	50	8

B - Crescentwood

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	18	12	29	0	41
Polish	0	11	11	11	22	44
Italian	0	25	0	12	25	38
Irish	0	20	0	20	0	60
Scotch	25	0	0	0	0	75
Other	0	31	0	23	0	46

C - Deerfield

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	6	0	6	33	55
English	11	11	11	0	11	56
Irish	0	0	22	22	22	34
Italian	0	0	14	29	43	14
Ukranian	0	0	17	0	17	66
Other	5	38	0	14	10	33

D - Forest Park

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	3	0	28	41	28
Italian	8	8	0	8	58	18
American	0	0	0	29	57	14
Polish	0	0	0	36	55	9
Irish	29	29	0	14	14	14
Other	0	6	0	6	76	12

E - Kantner

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
Polish	0	10	3	6	47	34
German	0	7	0	7	54	32
Italian	0	12	19	0	61	8
English	0	9	36	0	36	19
French	0	11	0	22	22	45
Other	4	14	0	18	30	34

F - Kellwood

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	0	30	10	50	10
Polish	0	0	10	0	80	10
Italian	13	0	13	25	50	0
American	0	0	0	0	50	50
Irish	0	0	0	33	33	33
Lebanese	0	0	33	0	66	0

G - Kern

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	25	0	31	19	25
Italian	0	0	18	27	55	0
English	0	0	0	22	67	11
Polish	0	33	0	11	33	22
French	0	14	14	29	29	14
Other	0	8	13	13	33	33

H - Pleasantview

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
Italian	0	14	4	14	36	32
Polish	0	0	12	0	42	46
German	4	4	4	18	35	35
English	11	22	22	0	11	34
Irish	11	0	11	34	22	22
Other	5.5	5.5	8	14	17	50

I - Roosevelt

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	11	22	11	22	33
Polish	0	22	0	33	33	11
American	14	14	14	29	29	0
Irish	0	0	0	0	67	33
Italian	0	0	20	20	40	20
Other	0	12	0	41	41	6

J - Roxana Park

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
Polish	0	0	0	56	14	30
German	0	0	0	17	17	66
Irish	0	40	0	0	0	60
English	0	50	0	25	0	25
Italian	0	0	33	0	0	67
Other	0	20	20	20	40	0

K - Warrendale

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
Irish	8	0	24	30	8	30
German	0	9	9	9	36	37
Polish	0	0	17	33	17	33
French	0	0	20	40	20	20
English	20	20	0	0	40	20
Other	19	6	0	19	31	25

L - Woodland

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
German	0	13	8	13	13	53
Irish	0	36.5	9	9	9	36.5
Polish	0	0	0	0	0	100
Italian	0	0	25	0	25	50
French	33	0	0	0	0	67
Other	0	10	20	10	10	50

TABULATION III

(All Numbers Represent Percents)

ENTIRE EAST DETROIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Predominate Ethnic Groups	Years Families Have Lived In East Detroit School District					
	0 - 1	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	Over 20
1. German	1	9	7	18	30	36
2. Polish	0	9	6	19	38	28
3. Italian	2	10	10	14	44	21
4. Irish	4	8	10	19	25	33
5. English	6	24	16	7	20	27
6. Other	4	12	5	19	27	32
7. TOTAL 1 - 6	3	11	8	17	31	30

CONCLUSIONS

After carefully considering all aggregate facts concluded by the survey, the following conclusions have been drawn:

1. There were 39 ethnic groups identified in this survey.
2. Telephone responses indicated that some individuals found it difficult to relate to only one ethnic group.
3. The assumption that Italian and Polish are the dominant ethnic groups in East Detroit appears to be false.
4. Germans represent the largest ethnic percentage of East Detroit School District residents.
5. Statistics seem to indicate that the major five ethnic groups have remained stable for over twenty years.
6. Of the 707 residents polled, 238 had no opinion regarding the predominate nationality group on their block. Definite opinions concerning block ethnicity numbered 277. Ninety-two responses concluded their blocks to be ethnically mixed. Based on the above, residents either do not know the ethnicity of their neighbors or are not concerned with this.

QUESTIONS RAISED BY THIS SURVEY

1. What portion of the Irish, English, and Scotch responses are southern white?
2. Would it be valuable to know where families moving into the school district came from?
3. Is the ethnicity of the school population the same as the total population?
4. Why don't residents have opinions regarding the ethnicity of their neighbors? Do they have a true picture of the major ethnic groups in the area?
5. Are there certain ethnic groups which send their children to private schools?
6. Does the ethnic breakdown of the portion of East Detroit which is in the South Lake School district show the same predominate ethnic group rankings as those in the East Detroit Public School District?

APPENDIX